Recognition to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai

2010. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of recognition to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai as an 'Institution of National Importance' analogues to the Asiatic Society of Kolkata is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when this proposal is pending;

(d) the reasons for delay in taking a decision in this regard; and

(e) by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Representations have been received from The Asiatic Society of Mumbai's Employee's Union in this regard.

(b) to (e) They have been duly examined. The suggestion has not been found to be feasible.

Irregularities in Rampur Raza Library

†2011. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are serious irregularities in Rampur Raza Library (U.P.) operating under the authority of Rampur Raza Library Act, 1975;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any letters from Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and Public in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far thereon; and

(e) whether Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly have been apprised of the position?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) Letters have been received from Members of Parliament urging speedy appointment of regular incumbent to the post of Director, Rampur Raza Library. They were informed that the Recruitment Rules had been amended and action to fill up the post initiated.

Thefts of heritage items from National Museum

†2012. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the precious heritage items such as Statue of Buddha, the Medal of Ravindra Nath Tagore and the Brass Medal meant for Indira Gandhi etc., have been stolen from the National Museum of the country;

(b) the persons responsible for the theft; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The heritage items such as statue of Buddha, the Medal of Ravindra Nath Tagore and the Brass Medal meant for Indira Gandhi do not belong to National Museum, New Delhi. However, one sculpture named 'Buddha Head (Sarnath)' was found missing from the Archaeological Gallery of Indian Museum, Kolkata on 29th December, 2004. The matter has been referred to the Kolkata Police for investigation. After the incident the entire security system of Indian Museum has been further strengthened and additional CCTV have been installed with recording facilities. The Ministry has reviewed from time to time the security arrangements of all the museums and passed necesary directions.

The medal of Rabindra Nath Tagore and the Brass Medal meant for Indira Gandhi do not belong to any institution under the Ministry of Culture.

Old cultural traditions in Uttaranchal

†2013. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that various old cultural traditions are existing and followed even today in Joansar Bhawar, Johar, Vyas, Darma and Choudas area of the Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken to protect and promote the above cultures?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.